the Milliwatt

The award-winning monthly publication of
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

December, 2004

BRATS Elections/Holiday Party December 14

The Annual elections of The BRATS will take place at The Pikesville Libraryon Tuesday, December 14 at 7:30 PM. We will elect our 4 officers and 6 of the12 members of the Board of Directors. Following the elections, we will be treated to a delicious repast as our Annual holiday party. Bring your family and plan to join us for this festive occasion

FCC BPL Report and Order Stresses Avoidance, Resolution of Harmful Interference (Oct 29, 2004) --

The FCC today released the full BPL Report and Order (R&O) it adopted just two weeks ago. While extolling the purported benefits of broadband over power line technology, the 81-page document also declares the FCC's intention to "protect licensed services from harmful interference." (Full document available on ARRL, FCC web sites)

Next CAATN Meeting Scheduled

Sunday December 5; 10 AM at the Historical Electronics Museum in Linthicum.
E-mail: "Dave KC3AM has made great progress in getting the linking to the Baltimore repeater (north to south only) working or at least showing that it can work with live video. Much more Work still to be done. This will be our main topic for this meeting. How do we want to control the flow and other technical questions and problems. 73 Ron, K3ZKO"

White House Appoints Adelstein to New Term on FCC

President George W. Bush this week announced his intention to nominate FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein to serve the remainder of a five-year term expiring June 30, 2008. Sworn into office in November 2002 to complete the rest of former Commissioner Gloria Tristani's term that ended in June 2003, Adelstein is one of two Democrats on the five-member FCC.

Holiday Greetings!

the Milliwatt

The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS. Items contained herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXK, Editor

Some Thoughts

It is quite possible that mailing out a club newsletter is an anachronism. I remember volunteering (silly me) to send out 15 post cards to all BRATS members reminding them of the next meeting. That evolved to become my job along with editing The MILLIWATT. We are still considering what to do with respect to the MILLIWATT. Let us know what you think about the idea of not printing/mailing it . There are several options . But we want to hear from you. Thanks and best wishes for the Holiday season and the New Year. May it be a year of good health for each of us and our families.
73, Mayer, W3GXK

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The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915
a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and a non-profit corporation in the State of Maryland.

home page: **http://www.bratsatv.org**
e-mail: mail@bratsatv.org
InfoLine: 410- 461-0086
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville, MD.
President: Ed Rosen, N3GXH
Vice Pres: Ian Millet, N3CVA
Secretary: Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXK
Treasurer: Les McClure, W3GXT
Webmaster: Laura Faussone, KB3LJM
Chairman of the Board: Heru Walmsley, W3WV
Vice Chairman, Technical: Mike Dees, N3EZD
Vice Chairman, Operations: Ian Millet, N3CVA

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BRATS Repeaters

BRATS Linked Repeater System
W3DID 147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-
BRATS Stand-Alone Repeater
443.35-
BRATS Packet Network Nodes
W3GXT-5 145.05
W3GXT-10 224.52
BRATS ATV Repeater System
W3WCQ, Inputs: 426.25, 1253.25
Outputs: 439.25, 911.25

BRATS WEEKLY NETS

Mon. 11:45 Informal ATV Net, W3WVV
Mon. 9 PM Traffic & Info Net, W3GXK
Tue. 9 PM Horsetraders Net, KA3CEA
Thu 9 PM BRATS ATV Net
Sat. 1 PM. News Bulletin, W3GXK
Sat. 1:20 BRATS Answer Men W3WVV, N3GXH
As Needed: Weather/Emergency Net, Skywarn Net, WA3DZZ, N3VMF

BRATS Board of Directors

Through December, 2004
KA3RRK, N3WJH, N3SOK, KC3FI
Through December, 2005
KA3IDB, W3ZQI, K3RGG, KD7QOT, KB3FIF

BRATS MEETINGS

Second Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Pikesville Library
1301 Reisterstown Road

NEXT BRATS MEETING

Annual Elections/Holiday Party
Tuesday, December 14, 7:30 PM
At the Pikesville Library
1301 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville

DUES after January 1, 2005:
Regular Membership: $15
Retired/Disabled/Student: $10
Entire Family of hams: $20
Renew NOW and save!

BALTIMORE MARATHON A SUCCESS

Fellow Baltimore Marathon Amateur Radio Volunteers,
Corrigan Sports Enterprises and Maryland Special Olympics, the organizers and volunteer and logistics coordinators for the 2004 Under Armour Baltimore Running Festival, asked me to relay their thanks to the Amateur Radio volunteers who provided communications in support of the event. 19 Amateur Radio Operators and 2 hams-to-be came out to support Baltimore's largest public service event. Some 1573 men and 779 women completed the 26.2 mile run in about 7 hours.

The first male marathoner was #6 John Itati of Kenya in 2 h 14 m 51 s. (7 Kenyans were among the first 10 men). The first female marathoner was #27 Ramilia Burangulova of Russia in 2:40:21. Scott Herrick #1130 of Mt. Airy was the first local male in 2:36:11 and Lee Dipietro #34 of Ruxton was again the first local female in 2:53:04.

Thanks to BARC and BRATS for the support of their members and use of their repeaters. Special thanks to net control BARC President Elect Joe AJ3X, BRATS President Ed N3GXH who covered a water stop, BARC past President Robin AA3SB who shadowed the Race Director, and Howard AA3WD who was bike mobile tailing the lead female.

Since its start in 2001, the Baltimore Running Festival - comprising the Baltimore Marathon, Half Marathon, and 5K - has generated more than $1.5 million for area charities such as Baltimore Reads, Health Care for the Homeless, Special Olympics, Police Athletic League, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the AIDS Foundation and Tissue Bank International. We had a very good turnout of 19 amateurs but we needed even more operators to cover all 18 water stops, shadow all of the important officials, and deploy some tools like APRS and ATV. I hope you enjoyed your participation this year and look forward to having your help again with the next Baltimore Marathon on Saturday, October 15, 2005. Congratulations on an operation well done!

73 and Sincere Thanks de Ian, N3CVA

Hams Participate in Drill

Dogs, horses and search and rescue personnel from the Mid-Atlantic region gathered at Cunningham Falls State Park Sunday for a training drill. The Maryland Search teams Task Force (MSTTF) held its annual Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) Friday through Sunday. Teams have gathered for the training since 2000. Teams attend workshops, seminars, and mock searches to hone the skills needed to respond to emergencies. Canine and equestrian search and rescue teams and ground searching , man tracking, technical rescue and medical rescue services all participated. Workshops included canine air scent and wilderness search, lost person behavior, man tracking, survival skills, land navigation, search management and mounted search and rescue. The classes range from very basic to advanced. Amateur radio operators were on site, demonstrating advanced technology for tracking searchers who are involved in a rescue. The Frederick County chapter of the American Red Cross used Sunday's mock search for training its volunteers. All Maryland search team members are volunteers. (Frederick News-Post, 11/8/04 via N3CVA)

Photo by Ian. N3CVA

Now that's a real scan

A security scanner at London Heathrow doesn't just spot weapons or other contraband. Its X-rays see through clothing, producing a "naked" image of passengers. The device is inside a curtained area where passengers, chosen at random, assume several poses to register their image. Those who demur are given hand searches."It was really horrible," one woman passenger told the London Sunday Times. "It doesn't leave much to the imagination because you're virtually naked, but I guess it's less intrusive than being hand searched." A man said he was "shocked" at what he saw and felt "embarrassed." Security officials say the scanner is far more effective than conventional metal detectors, but the U.S. Transportation Security Administration has refused to deploy it until it can be modified to preserve some modesty.

Is that a baboon on the waiting list?

Yes, that was a primate you saw yesterday at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport. A pregnant baboon, whose name was not released, escaped from her holding cage Wednesday as she was being loaded onto a 3:30 p.m. Continental Airlines flight to San Francisco, according to the Houston Chronicle. The baboon was being delivered to a Bay Area zoo. She managed to climb into the rafters below an elevated terminal concourse, though officials say she never entered the passenger areas of the airport. Animal control specialists were brought in, and where able to coax the animal back into captivity. But the incident did force the baboon to lose her assigned seat. "They didn't hold the flight for one baboon," said Houston airport system spokesman Roger Smith. "They found another aircraft to put her on."

Controversial idea: Charge fliers by the pound

Looking for fodder to start a lively water-cooler conversation? Try Marc Fisher's column in The Washington Post , where he suggests that airlines should charge passengers by the pound. "Two pounds of apples cost more than one," he writes. "Mailing a big, fat envelope is more expensive than mailing a letter. Smokers pay more for life insurance than do non-smokers. So why shouldn't you pay an airline according to how much you weigh and how much space you take up?" He notes the nation's struggling airlines are trying to cut costs anyway they can, and cites a recent study by the National Center for Environmental Health that found U.S. passengers' increasing weight costs airlines an extra $275 million per year in fuel costs. Fisher's take: "... the solution lies directly beneath the floor of the passenger cabin: Charge passengers by the pound, just as freight in the cargo hold is priced. That would not only help the airlines, but more important, would create a social and financial disincentive for becoming or staying obese." Let the debates begin.

Would you like Internet while you wait for your car?

Hertz will add wireless, high-speed Web access in more than 50 airports across the USA during the first quarter of 2005 under a deal with Wayport, a provider of Wi-Fi wireless and high-speed access. Hertz says customers at certain airport locations will be able to connect from inside the Hertz facility as well as from the #1 Club Gold rental area. First locations include airports in California, Florida, Texas, New York, Illinois and Pennsylvania. Members of Wayport's Wi-Fi World program will be able to use the service as part of Wayport's standard package. Other customers can purchase a one-time connection for what's described as a minimal fee.

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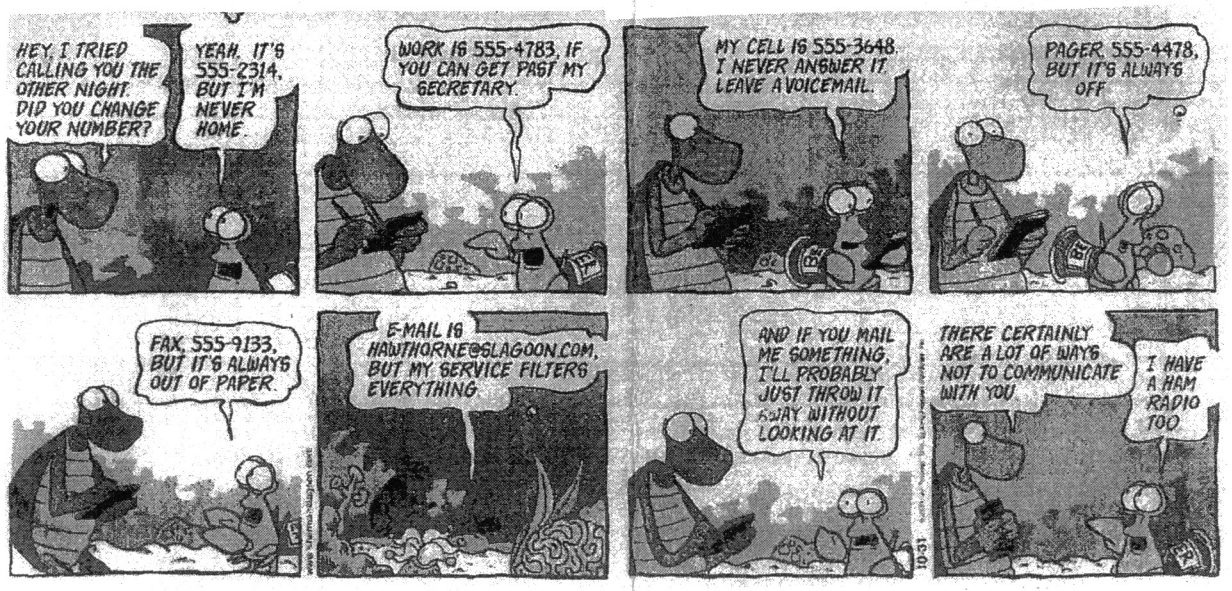
Digital broadcast troublesome to some, experimental opportunity for others

A digital broadcast signal on 3995 kHz has prompted some members of the amateur community to contact ARRL to say it's QRMing the top 10 kHz of 75 meters and asking what can be done about it. Not much. The signal, from Deutsche Welle in Germany, is legal since radio amateurs share that part of the band with broadcasters in Region 1 (which includes Europe). The international Radio Regulations do leave the door open to request that the station reduce power or change its antenna pattern, however. Although the station has been broadcasting for some time on the same frequency in conventional AM, it's attracted more notice from hams since July, when it began testing using digital format--also referred to as "DRM," (Digital Radio Mondiale, French for "Digital Radio Worldwide"). Programming originates from Deutsche Welle's brand-new, all-digital broadcast center in Bonn . Of course, the vagaries of propagation will be a big factor as to the amount of interference US hams experience at any given time. "Digital shortwave will revolutionize cross-border broadcasts and will initiate a worldwide renaissance of radio," Deutsche Welle Director General Erik Bettermann said this month during a panel discussion at Munich Media Days. Bettermann says Deutsche Welle plans to gradually shut down its analog shortwave transmissions as DRM receivers became more available globally--something not anticipated until late 2005. Meanwhile, radio amateurs have been experimenting with programs such as HamDream, a DRM program adapted for Amateur Radio use by HB9TLK. It enables digital voice and data transmissions using bandwidths on the order of 2.3 to 2.5 kHz.

Smithsonian Displays Amateur Satellites

The James S. McDonnell Space Hangar opened Monday, November 1, 2004 at the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar Hazy Center near Dulles Airport. In it is a display case containing a full scale model of OSCAR, the first amateur satellite to fly in space. It's been many years since OSCAR was on display at the Smithsonian. It has been in storage in recent years. In the exhibit it is joined by PCsat and NUSAT-1. [AMSAT}



We're Safe from BPL

At least for the time being, and I think time is on our side with this technology. Here is what Baltimore Gas and Electric had to say (from the Baltimore Sun on Nov. 10th): "Several utilities have looked at BPL and have some misgivings about it from a market perspective," McGrath said. 'They are not giving up on it but they are saying 'Gee, I don't know how this technology will be competitive with other broadband technologies'. A lot of the juicy parts of the market are already taken." Baltimore–based Constellation Energy Group, parent of utility Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. is taking a cautious approach. "We've seen other energy companies enter the telecom market, and they've failed" said Robert Gould, a Constellation Energy Spokesman. "If the technology and the economics of the system makes sense, and we can leverage that new technology, then we might consider it . Right now, our plan is to stay focused on our core energy market business." Indeed, say analysts, BPL faces a tough fight against entrenched competitors. "In a North American marketplace, broadband over power lines has really a lot stacked against it," said Nicole Klein, an analyst with Yankee Group. "For one thing, utilities have seen a backlash from investors haunted by the dot.com and telecom blowup. Also, "we tend to look at the BPL technology as being where DSL and cable were four or five years ago, moving ahead toward a standard. She said. But BPL is entering a market that is 80 per cent served by DSL and cable. They're late to market. We think it is a big challenge." Klein said she sees far more potential for the technology internationally . We're more positive about the technology... in areas that are not yet served by either cable or DSL. There's an opportunity for that technology to take hold. [NEMARC, forwarded by Grant, KA3CEA]

Donald M. "Don" Johnson, WA0EPX, SK

ARRL has learned that Don Johnson, WA0EPX, of Lewiston, Minnesota, died July 14. He was 69. Johnson was a founding member of Handihams and described as "an extraordinarily active guy who enjoyed ham radio and was a true 'Renaissance Man.'" He also was a member of the US Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) and of the ARRL A-1 Operator Club.. A storekeeper in Fremont, he was inducted into the Winona County Fair Hall of Fame in 1989. In addition to Amateur Radio, he also enjoyed chess. Survivors include his mother, a brother and a sister. A service was held July 18.

UK's First 'Store and Forward' Voice Relay Operational

The UK's first unattended 'store and forward' single frequency voice relay was switched on at 1330UTC on Saturday 16 October. It operates on 70.4375MHz using the callsign MB7FM, with a maximum 'store' time of 120 seconds. The installation is on an elevated site in the Chiltern Hills at locator IO91PS, with 10dBW ERP from a dipole antenna at 32 metres above ground. Please send signal reports etc by e-mail to mb7fm@77hz.com [GB2RS]

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

WIA Director Phil Wait sent us this one,, a story of a TV set emitting a distress signal! An Oregon USA man has discovered that his year-old Toshiba Corporation flat-screen TV was emitting an international distress signal which was picked up by a satellite, leading a search and rescue operation to his apartment south of Portland. Authorities had expected to find a boat or small plane with a malfunctioning transponder, the usual culprit in such incidents, emitting the 121.5 MHz frequency of the distress signal used internationally. But here's a kicker! He was told to keep his TV off to avoid paying a $10,000 fine for "willingly broadcasting a false distress signal." Toshiba has offered to provide him with a replacement set for free. (RFI mailing list via Phil Waite) [WIA QNEWS]

We thank the FISTS club downunders newsletter for this 'lil gem'.

A guy on 80 metres recently was heard saying that he thought the CW filter in his new rig was useless because it, and I quote, "didn't get rid of the "Morse interference" to the net I was in!" [WIA QNEWS]

FCC Fines CB Operator-Amateur Licensee

The FCC has imposed large fines on a Washington CB operator who now holds a Technician class amateur license . In an October 18 Forfeiture Order (NOF), the Commission levied a $10,000 fine on Robert A. Spiry, now KD7TRB, of Tacoma, for unauthorized operation on 11 meters that also involved the use of uncertificated equipment and the use of an illegal external RF power amplifier. The alleged violations occurred in 2002. Following up on "numerous complaints of interference to home electronics equipment" from CB transmissions, agents from the FCC's Seattle Field Office tracked the interfering transmissions to Spiry's home and vehicle. "The agent observed signal levels that appeared to be significantly higher than those expected from a legal CB transmitter," the FCC said in a subsequent Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL). The FCC says its agents conducted inspections of Spiry's station in April and November 2002 and determined that Spiry was operating uncertificated transmitters and using a linear amplifier attached to his CB transmitter in violation of Part 95 rules. The FCC said it advised Spiry that his use of unauthorized and non-certified equipment voided his blanket authority to operate his CB station, but he continued to operate anyway. The Commission said that when Spiry responded to the December 2002 NAL, he did not dispute the facts as the FCC had presented them. But, Spiry told the FCC that he had given up CB, removed his CB antenna and obtained an Amateur Radio license. Spiry's ham ticket was granted December 2, 2002. Spiry also said he didn't realize that the fine for such violations couldbe so high and that he is unable to pay it. The Commission says Spiry presented no evidence to back up that claim, however, and it's not persuaded that Spiry's "remedial efforts" warrant any reduction in the fine. The FCC gave Spiry 30 days to pay the fine. [ARRL LETTER]

NASA names space veteran, ham as deputy for exploration operations

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe has appointed International Space Station Expedition 8 Commander Mike Foale, KB5UAC, as deputy associate administrator for exploration operations. In that role, the British-born Foale--who also did a duty tour aboard the Russian Mir space station--will advise the mission directorate senior leadership on near-term opportunities to refocus and realign training, operations, engineering support and life sciences research towards accomplishing the Vision for Space Exploration. "Mike brings his unique science and mission background to NASA Headquarters during a critical and exciting time for the agency," O'Keefe said. During his stay aboard the ISS, Foale participated in more than a dozen Amateur Radio on the International Space Station school-group contacts from NA1SS . An astronaut since 1987, Foale developed crew rescue and integrated operations for the ISS. He also served as chief of the astronaut office expedition corps, and as assistant director (technical) of Johnson Space Center. He is a veteran of six space flights and has logged more than 374 days in space, including four space walks, making him the US record holder for time spent in space.

Diversity is the Key to Success in Utah

By Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Manager

Homebrew night is just one the many events that keep the Utah Amateur Radio Club (UARC) active. This year the annual "Homebrew Night" had many projects that were too large to bring to the meeting so some members used PowerPoint to show off their handiwork. While the October meeting typically features "Homebrew Night," September's theme is "Junk Box Wars," where two-person teams compete to design and build a working electronic device described at the beginning of the contest. Participants have 35 minutes to design a circuit and obtain parts from discarded electronic circuits. Teams earn points for things like design, stability and accuracy. They are penalized each time they have to consult reference materials. While one team member is working, the other is describing to the audience [all at the same time?] what they are doing . The result is an event that's both a competition and a lesson.

ARLS013 Useful life of UO-22 satellite appears over

According to AMSAT-UK, the UO-22 satellite is not in good shape and its useful life may be over. The Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL) Ground Station control center has tried several times in recent weeks to reactivate the satellite, AMSAT-UK reports. The satellite did come back to life briefly following one attempt, but other tries have failed completely. The SSTL ground control station may make further attempts to reactivate UO-22, "but it seems unlikely that they will be completely successful." The cause of the satellite's failure is not known for certain, but SSTL believes it may be related either to the spacecraft's batteries or to the fact that the satellite is very hot due to orbital precession, which has generally put the spacecraft in full sunlight. The elevated temperature has been causing problems with the receivers as well as with the batteries. Launched on July 17, 1991, UO-22 has served for many years as the 9600 baud store-and-forward satellite for the Amateur Radio packet radio worldwide SatGate service, which linked packet radio networks in many countries. AMSAT-NA reports UO-22 as "non-operational." For further information on UO-22 contact Jim Heck, G3WGM, via email at, g3wgm@amsat.org.
- W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL. [via eHam.net]

UK amateurs to get additional 100 kHz on 40 meters October 31

Effective at 0100 UTC October 31, the 40 meter band in the British Isles will effectively double in size when radio amateurs there gain access to 7100 to 7200 kHz. Ofcom, the UK telecommunications regulatory authority, announced the Notice of Variation October 26. The change is a result of actions taken during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, where conferees agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. Coincidentally, the Great Britain band expansion--in the works since last year--will occur just about halfway through the CW World Wide Contest (SSB) this weekend. Contesters take note! The Ofcom NOV makes the segment available on a secondary basis, and amateur stations in Great Britain may not cause interference to stations operating in other radio services inside or outside the UK. Great Britain appears to be the second Region 1 country to authorize access to the additional spectrum, although the WRC-03 change does not formally go into effect until 2009. Last December, Croatia announced it would permit its amateur licensees to operate between 7100 and 7200 kHz on a secondary basis with a maximum power of 1 kW PEP.
--thanks to Lawrence Woolf, GJ3RAX; RSGB [ARRL Web Extra]

40 Meter Allocation Extended in EI:

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society is pleased to announce that the 7.100 to 7.200 MHz segment of 40 meters has been released to EI Experimenters (i.e. "hams") with immediate effect. Operation in this segment will be on a secondary basis and is subject to a power limit of 20dBW (ERP). Taken from IRTS news Sunday October 31st 2004. [EI8JE on eham.net]

Two New 5MHz Beacons Soon

The RSGB is close to installing and operating two new beacons on 5290kHz. The new beacons, which some have monitored during their hardware test phase, will be installed shortly and operate under the callsigns GB3WES and GB3ORK. GB3WES will be located in Cumbria and GB3ORK in the Orkney Islands. Both will have a stepped transmit power sequence and a 30-second sounder sequence of 0.5ms pulses at 40Hz prf identical to that of the current GB3RAL beacon. Their transmit times will follow GB3RAL by one and two minutes respectively. With GB3RAL located in Oxfordshire, the three beacons will provide an excellent spread of signal source across Great Britain and thus offer experimenters a unique opportunity to study propagation effects at 5MHz from their own QTH. [GB2RS]

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Nov. 27-28	CQ WW DX Contest, CW
Dec. 3-5	ARRL 160-Meter Contest
Dec. 4	TARA RTTY Melese
Dec. 4-5	CIS DX Contest, CW
	ARCI Holiday Spirits
Dec 11-12	ARRL 10-Meter Contest
Dec 18	OK DX Contest, RTTY
	RAC Winter Contest
Dec. 18-19	MDXA PSK Death Match
	Croatian CW Contest
	Stew Perry Topband Challenge
Dec. 26	DARC Christmas Contest

SILENT KEY

Richard Frank, W9RZ

November 8, 2004

Dick was a long-time CARA member, CARA Hamfest Chairman, and past BRATS member.

KH6WO Beacon

The club beacon station is receiving SWL reports from all around the world. KH6WO beacon is part of the NCDXF worldwide system (NCDXF=Northern California DX Foundation) and you can read all about it on the internet: http://www.ncdxc.org and click on beacons. Want to know which bands are open to any area, this is one way to find out. I have requested permission from the FCC to include the 12, 17 and 30 meter bands. Still no response from the FCC.... John, K1ER , HARC (Honolulu Amateur Radio Club) Newsletter

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Go to: http://www.bratsatv.org, Click on *MILLIWATT*, then on the issue you want!

LAST CHANCE TO RENEW AT THE OLD RATE!

After January 1, dues will increase to $15/$10. Renew NOW and save! You can renew for 2 or 3 years at the old rate. Do it now! Thanks!

ARRL DX Bulletin

RODRIGUES ISLAND, 3B9. Robert, 3B9FR has been QRV using SSTV on 10meters around 1345z and 20 meters after 1630z. QSL direct.

MAURITANIA, 5T. Nicolas, 5T5SN has been QRV on 12 meters using CW between 1230 and 1300z. QSL via IZ1BZV.

PAKISTAN, AP. Ijaz, AP2IA has been QRV using RTTY on 10 meters before 1200z and on 12 meters after 1200z. QSL direct.

TAJIKISTAN, EY. Jacques, F5LYF and Jean Louis, F5NHJ are QRV asEY/F5NHJ until March 2005. Activity is on all HF bands and 6meters, using mainly CW. QSL via F5NHJ.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Jon, DU9/N0NM has been QRV on 160 meters around1100z. QSL via W4DR.

PALAU, T8. Aki is QRV as T88QQ and has been active on 30 meters between 1215 and 1530z. QSL via JA1KAJ.

SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS. Mike, GM0HCQ is QRV as VP8SIG in his spare time from Signy Base, IOTA AN-008. QSL to home call.

ANGOLA, D2. Ed, D2PFN has been QRV using RTTY on 15 meters around1400z and SSB on this band around 1500z. QSL via KK5DO.

IRAN, EP. Hamid, EP4HR has been QRV using PSK on 10 meters between1100 and 1200z. QSL via I2MQP.

COTE d'IVOIRE, TU. Didier, TU5KC is usually QRV on 20 metersbetween 1600 to 1800z. QSL via F5TLN.

DIEGO GARCIA, VQ9. Larry, VQ9LA has been QRV on 80 meters around1330z. QSL via operator's instructions.

LAOS, XW. Alex, RK3DT is QRV as XW3DT while in Vientiane. QSL viaoperator's instructions.

TANZANIA, 5H. Ram, 5H9KR has been QRV on 15 meters around 1750z. QSL via KF9TC.

QATAR, A7. Juma, A71EM has been QRV on 80 meters around 2030 to 2200z. QSL via EA7FTR.

ETHIOPIA, ET. Peter, ET3BN has been QRV on 30 meters around 1600z. QSL via operator's instructions.

TURKMENISTAN, EZ. Gene, EZ8BO has been QRV on 17 meters around1230z. QSL direct.

VE EXAMS

2nd Saturday, 1 PM: Davidsonville, by AARC Register 12 Noon. Bob, AA3RR 410-347-8193.
3rd Saturday, 9 AM, Laurel, by LARC, at 384 Main St. Laurel, MD John Creel, WB3GXW, 301-572-5124
4th Tuesday, 6 PM: Linthicum, MD at Historical Electronics Museum. Harold, WB4OGP home: 410-757-0493; wk. 410-712-6829

2005 BARC VE EXAMS

At the BARC Clubhouse:
12360 Owings Mills Blvd. Owings Mills
Saturdays: Dec. 4, Feb. 5, March 5, May 7, June 4, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Nov. 5
Sundays; Jan. 2, July 3, October 2.
Register at 1 PM, exams at 2 P.M.
Call Rusty, N3WKE, 410-247-0578
or e-mail: N3WKE@arrl.net
(Thanks, Russ, N3YI)

2005 Aero Club Exams

At White Marsh Library: Jan 29, May 28, July 24, Sept. 24, Nov. 19
At Essex Library: March 19th;
Register at 1 PM, Exams at 1:30 PM
Contact Frank, AC3P 410-687-7209
Or e-mail: AC3P@arrl.net
(Thanks, Neil, W3ZQI)

HAMFEST

Sunday, January 30th : MMARC Post Holiday Hamfest, Odenton Vol. F.D. Hall, 1425 Annapolis Rd. Route 175Odenton. Talk-in on 146.805, tone 107.2 . Contact: Frank, N3SEO. 410-647-3335, or e-mail N3SEO@aol.com

THANKS!

W3GXT and N3EZD for all your help and perseverance! I could not have done it without you. -W3GXK

milliwatt swap shop

ads are free and get results!

Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or e-mail to: mayerzimmerman@netzero.com

FOR SALE: The famous W3GXK low-band station. Confirmed over 250 Countries, WAS on 10, 15 and 20 meters! ICOM 730 xcvr. (fan needs some work), PS-15 power supply, MFJ 481 Grandmaster memory keyer, Bencher BY2 silver paddle, MFJ 900 Econo Tuner, Heath HM102 power/swr meter, Heath HD 1426 Field Strength meter. Heath 24-hour station clock. National NC-183 short wave receiver (with ham bands) . Make me a reasonable offer (prefer package deal). Mayer, W3GXK. 410-786-6839 or e-mail mayerzimmerman@netzero.com

WANTED: Uniden scanner 13.8v home AC adapter. Email Russ, N3YI: n3yi@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: ATV equipment. PC Electronics TX23-11 1 watt transmitter on 1253 MHz, PCEL TVC 12G \down converter. Both new and unused but on my shelf for some time. Asking $250 for the transmitter and $75 for the converter, both for$300. Ron, W6VCF. rolney@thegrid.net

FOR SALE: *HUGE desk*- Perfect for your ham shack, 78W x 40D x 32.5H . 3 large drawers on each side, two small drawers in the center, many cubbies for storage Wired for many 110 connections. $150. Call 410-655-4931.

Feature: Survey Indicates That Hamfests Are Fun Social Events

The Hamfest or swap meet has long been a big part of the fabric of Amateur Radio. We thought it would be interesting to find out what it is that draws people to these events and what clubs are doing to attract the folks.
Full Story: See the ARRL web page at: http://www.arrl.org

milliwatt swap shop

ads are free and get results!

Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or e-mail to: mayerzimmerman@netzero.com

WANTED: AC Gilbert erector sets; old, new arge, small, need not be complete. CASH paid Lewis, 410-296-4874.

Antique Radio Repair , Restoration
Eric, WA3TAD, Audio-Visual Service/Retro Radio 3401 Chestnut Avenue; Baltimore, MD 21211. 410-467-3620; wa3tad@comcast.net

FREE! I have a crank-up tower that goes up to 40 ft. including ground mounting base. Free for anyone who could use it, but you transport. It is a steel triangle tubing type. If no one wants it, I plan to cut it up for scrap. John English AA3OW. aa3ow@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: 40 foot tower, big dish, antenna, rotor. You take down. Make offer . Martin Cawley, 410-229-8200

FOR SALE: ADI AR-146 2-mtr. mobile rig. Very dependable, includes mounting bracket, lighter plug adapter, magmount antenna, $125. Yaesu FT50R dualband 2-mtr./440. Scans from 76 MHz to 999 MHz (less cell). Extra battery, CA-15 charger, ear/throat mike, over shoulder harness, regularly $330. Sell for $275. Contact Russ for either or both rigs: n3yi@yahoo.com

Radio Consignment Shop at Overlea Hobbies 8411 Harford Rd, Parkville, 410-665-3622. Home of fine trains, model kits, x-acto, cars, planes, ships, many radios. Yaesu FT 101ZD, Kenwood TS-820S, 930S, Heath SB 102, National NC-183, more. Dick, N3JWN, 410-488-2806.

ATTENTION: If you do **NOT** want your ad to run again, please send me an e-mail to that effect: mayerzimmerman@netzero.com

VTS – VIDEOTAPING SERVICE
Video/DVD duplications, video tape transferred to DVD. Once source up to 2 hours, $30. Standards, conversions, Call VTS toll-free at **1-877-891-1002.** BRATS Member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS, http://www.videotapingservice.com

JADE COMPUTERS, LLC
1009 Ingleside Ave, Baltimore, MD. 21228. Phone: 419-719-1246; FAX: 410-719-9494 Your answer to custom built PC, office and home networking. Reseller for Net Integrity, server, cable modem, DSL, webpage design and hosting, POS and networking. We do CPR to your CPU. Kid tested, mother approved. Order PC on line: http://www.jadecomputers.net email: joed@jadecomputers,us

FOR SALE: Heathkit CO1015w/ inverter, $75. Heathkit Security Sentinel GD-3810, $20. AUTEK Research QF-1A SSB/CW/AM filter, $40. D-104 mic, G-stand, original boxes, $45. Tektronix 604/ 716M X-Y scope, $50. WWII HiPower ant. tuner, Vac. variables, roller inductor, $120. Headphones AZDEN DM 10 , new in box, $15, TELEX C-1320 $15. Clevite Bush, $15. Panoramic adapter BC-1031C, $45. Tektronix 105 square wave generator,$ 25. Power supplies: 13.8VDC @ 20a. $40; 13.8VDC @ 35a, $50. Table mount rack cabinet, $5. Complete UHF repeater system w/ 2 Motorola hand-helds, 1 mobile xcvr, $150. W2IHY 8-band audio equalizer, noise gate, $175. Kenwood TS930SAT, needs service $150. Call Ted, W3OWN, 410-668-5580. Please leave message if you get answering machine.

FOR SALE: Two (2) BP-33 batteries for Kenwood TH-22AT . 6v.@ 1200mah nicads. John, KA3ZTC ka3ztc1@juno.com or call me on the repeater.

WANTED: Ride to and from hamfests. Will contribute toward gasoline. I live in Baltimore City. Marv, N3BQA. 410-685-6308.

YOUR AD would have appeared in this space, if only you would have sent it to us: mayerzimmerman@netzero.com

the Milliwatt

The award-winning monthly publication of
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

December, 2004

BRATS MEETINGS
Second Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Pikesville Library

DUES REMINDER!
RENEW NOW AND SAVE!
If your membership expires at the end of December, renew NOW and save! New membership rates after January 1 will be $15 regular and $10 retired/disabled/ student/. Family membership - entire family will be $20

ATV NETS
BRATS Nets:
Monday, 11:45 AM, Informal ATV NET
Thursday, 9 PM ATV Net,
Alternate Net:
Wednesday, 9 PM : Alternate ATV Net, Rotating Net Control (Audio 147.495)

Homepages
BRATS: http://www.bratsatv.org
HATS: (Houston ATV Society):
http://www.hats.stevens.com
Black Mountain ATV Repeater:
http://www.w6yx.stanford.edu

BRATS Elections/Holiday Party
Tuesday, December 14, 7:30 PM
at the Pikesville Library
1301 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville

Other Radio Club Meetings:
QCWA
Monday at Noon, Cactus Willie
7315 Ritchie Hwy, Glen Burnie
3rd Thursday, 1 PM: Old Country Buffet, Joppa Rd at Satyr Hill
Last Wednes. 1 PM: Denny's
Bel Air Rd at Putty Hill
AARC: 1st and 3rd Thurs, 7:30 pm
Davidsonville Family Rec.Center,
Queen Anne Bridge Rd, Wayson Rd. (147.105/R)
AMRAD: 2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM,
Dolley Madison Library ; 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. McLean, VA (147.21/R)
BARC: 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 PM
12360 Owings Mills Blvd. (nr. warehouse
Owings Mills, MD (146.67/R)
CARA: 4th Tuesday, Gateway Center,
Rm 401, 6751 Gateway Dr. Columbia.
South off Rte. 175 (147.135/R)

NEXT CAATN MEETING
Sunday, December 5th,10 AM at
the Historical Electronics Museum

BRATS Membership Renewal: Regular= $12; Retired/Disabled/Student/Fam.= $6
Name_____ Call Sign _____ BRATS No____
Address_____ City/State/Zip_____
Phone_____ e-mail_____
MAIL TO: BRATS; P.O. Box 5915, Baltimore, MD 21282. Thanks!